

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1254

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: PLENARY STATEMENT OF JAN 17, 1974

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TRANSLATION OF STATEMENT OF
SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE KHLESTOV AT PLENARY
SESSION OF JANUARY 17, 1974.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. IN SPEAKING TODAY, AFTER THE SHORT INTERMISSION IN
OUR WORK, WE WOULD LIKE FIRST OF ALL TO EXTEND NEW
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YEAR'S GREETINGS TO OUR COLLEAGUES AND TO EXPRESS THE

HOPE THAT THAT BUSINESSLIKE COOPERATION WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED AMONG THE DELEGATIONS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS LAST YEAR WILL BE DEVELOPED AND STRENGTHENED IN THE FORTHCOMING PERIOD. A DESIRE FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND READINESS TO SEEK MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DECISIONS ARE IMPORTANT PRECONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS IN ANY UNDERTAKING. THEY ARE ALL THE MORE INDISPENSABLE IN SUCH IMPORTANT AND RESPONSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS AS THOSE IN WHICH WE ARE PARTICIPATING WITH YOU.

2. OBVIOUSLY ALL WILL AGREE THAT THE PAST YEAR 1973 WAS MARKED BY NEW SUBSTANTIAL MOVES TOWARD RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION. THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IS CHANGING FOR THE BETTER IN EUROPE, TRUST IS GROWING IN RELATIONS AMONG STATES AND EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO GET BROAD INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION UNDER WAY.

3. OUR NEGOTIATIONS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS PROCESS, AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO GIVE THEM AN EVEN MORE PURPOSEFUL CHARACTER THROUGH OUR JOINT EFFORTS, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE RESULTS, WHICH WOULD HELP TO STRENGTHEN AND DEVELOP POLITICAL DETENTE IN EUROPE. IN THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMON CAUSE IT IS NECESSARY FROM THE VERY BEGINNING TO SET A GOOD PACE AND, AVOIDING DELAYS OR LONG ABSTRACT DISCUSSIONS, TO CONCENTRATE ALL OUR ATTENTION AND EFFORTS ON ACHIEVING CONCRETE UNDERSTANDINGS AND ON WORKING OUT PRACTICAL DECISIONS AND STEPS ON THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

4. THE SOVIET DELEGATION, TOGETHER WITH THE DELEGATIONS OF OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, HAS TABLED PROPOSALS WORKED OUT IN DETAIL ON WAYS AND MEANS OF REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. THEY ARE CONTAINED IN THE JOINT DRAFT AGREEMENT PRESENTED BY THE DELEGATIONS OF THE GDR, POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND THE USSR ON 8 NOVEMBER 1973. WE ASSUME THAT OUR WESTERN COLLEAGUES HAVE HAD SUFFICIENT TIME TO THINK OVER AND STUDY THESE PROPOSALS. THE ADVANTAGES OF THE APPROACH ADVANCED BY US ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBVIOUS. ITS MAIN MERIT IS THAT IT TAKES DUE ACCOUNT OF THE EXISTING REALITIES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. BY NOT DISTURBING THE RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES IN THE CENTER OF EUROPE WHICH HAS BECOME ESTABLISHED OVER THE YEARS AND BY WHICH THE SECURITY OF THE SIDES IS ENSURED AS A WHOLE, AND BY NOT GIVING UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGES TO ANYONE, SUCH AN APPROACH ASSURES THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO SOLVE THE TASK BEFORE US. IT

WOULD ALLOW US TO SET ABOUT THE PRACTICAL REDUCTION OF
ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE
AND THUS REINFORCE THE PROCESS OF THE FURTHER
CONSOLIDATION OF SECURITY IN EUROPE.

5. THE PROPOSALS OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES
ENVISAGE THE SIMULTANEOUS REDUCTION, ON AN EQUAL
PERCENTAGE BASIS, OF ALL TYPES OF ARMED FORCES AND
ARMAMENTS, I.E. GROUND TROOPS, AIR FORCES, AND
UNITS AND DETACHMENTS EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS,
LOCATED IN CENTRAL EUROPE. ALL ELEVEN STATES WHICH
ARE POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS IN FUTURE AGREEMENTS SHOULD
OF COURSE PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A MUTUAL REDUCTION FROM
THE VERY BEGINNING AS WAS DECIDED IN THE PREPARATORY
TALKS.

6. IN A STATEMENT ON THE EVE OF THE RECESS -- ON
13 DECEMBER 1973 -- THE DELEGATION OF THE USSR REVIEWED
THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND
GAVE AN EVALUATION OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS OF THE
EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE. WE CLEARLY
DEMONSTRATED WHY THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE WORKING
DOCUMENT OF THE SEVEN WESTERN COUNTRIES OF 22 NOVEMBER
1973 CANNOT SERVE AS THE BASIS OF AN UNDERSTANDING ON
THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL
EUROPE. IN THIS CONNECTION IT WAS ESPECIALLY STRESSED
THAT THE PRINCIPLES AGREED IN THE COURSE OF THE PREPARATORY
TALKS, ABOVE ALL THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY
FOR ANY SIDE, MUST BE THE GUIDE FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE
PROBLEM OF THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS

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IN THE CENTER OF EUROPE, THE POINT WHERE THE ARMED
FORCES ARE CONFRONTING EACH OTHER.

7. THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAS AGAIN CAREFULLY
STUDIED THE MATERIALS OF THE FIRST STAGE OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS. WE WERE AGAIN CONVINCED THAT THE
WESTERN PROPOSALS, IN THEIR PRESENT FORM, DO NOT
CONFORM TO THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY
FOR ALL PARTIES AND RUN COUNTER TO THE AGREED
UNDERSTANDING ON MUTUAL, I REPEAT MUTUAL, REDUCTION
OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

8. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE AIM OF CHANGING THE
EXISTING RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE
IN THE COURSE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND OF OBTAINING
UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGES AT THE EXPENSE OF
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THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES IS UN-
REALISTIC AND OFFERS NO PROSPECT OF FRUITFUL RESULTS.
MOREOVER, IT WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSTRUCTIVE
SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL, AND WOULD
INTRODUCE AN ELEMENT OF WARINESS AND MISTRUST INTO THE
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE COMPLICATED AND SERIOUS PROBLEM
WITH WHICH WE ARE DEALING.

9. THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE NOT PURSUING IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS THE GOAL OF OBTAINING ANY UNILATERAL
MILITARY ADVANTAGES. THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPECT
A SIMILAR APPROACH ON THE PART OF THE WESTERN STATES.
THERE IS NO OTHER WAY, IF WE ARE TO STRIVE FOR A
SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WHICH IS JUST FOR ALL.

10. THE SOVIET DELEGATION CONSIDERS THAT THE PARTICIPANTS
IN THE NEGOTIATIONS MUST NOW REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS
DIRECTED AT THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM

BEFORE US OF THE MUTUAL REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND
ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY
FOR A PRODUCTIVE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS RESTS
UPON US ALL. THE PUBLIC IN THE EUROPEAN, AND NOT
ONLY IN THE EUROPEAN, COUNTRIES EXPECTS FROM OUR WORK
RESULTS WHICH WOULD PERMIT POLITICAL DETENTE IN EUROPE
TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY MILITARY DETENTE, AND A NEW
IMPORTANT STEP TO BE TAKEN TOWARDS ENSURING RELIABLE
EUROPEAN SECURITY.

11. FOR ITS PART THE SOVIET DELEGATION, AS IT HAS
ALREADY STATED, IS READY TO MAKE A CONSTRUCTIVE
CONTRIBUTION TO SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF REDUCTION OF
ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

END TEXT.HUMES

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